



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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SACHI A. HAMAI  
Interim Chief Executive Officer

July 31, 2015

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl  
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: Sachi A. Hamai  
Interim Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors  
HILDA L. SOLIS  
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Second District

SHEILA KUEHL  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

## **MOTION TO UPDATE STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA POLICIES RELATED TO ELECTIONS AND VOTING (ITEM NO. 12, AGENDA OF AUGUST 4, 2015)**

Item No. 12 on the August 4, 2015 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas to:

- 1) Approve the following additions to existing Board-adopted policies and positions relating to Section 3.15 - Elections and Voting, for inclusion in the 2015-16 State Legislative Agenda:
  - 3.15.5 - Support legislation to allow for the secure and effective use of new technologies available in the field of election administration;
  - 3.15.6 - Support legislation to authorize the implementation of additional, expanded and alternative voting opportunities; and
  - 3.15.7 - Support legislation to assist counties in the effective implementation of State-mandated changes in the elections process and administration.
- 2) Instruct the Interim Chief Executive Officer and the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to work with the Los Angeles County delegation, other counties and local governments, and stakeholders to pursue these policies, positions, and priorities in the State Legislature and with the State Administration and its agencies.

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## **Background**

In 2014, voter turnout throughout the State was historically low. Voter turnout in Los Angeles County was the lowest among all 58 California counties. In response to low voter participation, State legislators have introduced several measures to change elections systems and processes. Proposed measures include legislation to decrease barriers to voting, modernize voting systems, and increase voter participation.

The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk reports that its Voting Systems Assessment Project (VSAP) will develop and implement a new County voting system to provide voters with an improved and modernized voting experience. The Department also is working to remove impediments to voting and encourage increased election participation. The Department reports that efforts to improve and modernize voting systems and to increase election participation are limited by current State law and regulations. Although several legislative measures are currently under consideration to address these issues, the Sacramento advocates are unable to express support for these bills absent a Board policy determination.

This office and the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk support the addition of the proposed policies to Section 3.15 - Elections and Voting to the 2015-16 State Legislative Agenda which will enable the Sacramento advocates to support current and future legislative proposals to modernize elections systems and increase voter participation.

## **Conclusion**

There are no existing Board policies to support legislation which would: 1) allow for the secure and effective use of new technologies available in the field of election administration; 2) authorize the implementation of additional, expanded and alternative voting opportunities; and 3) assist counties in the effective execution of State-mandated changes in the elections process and administration; therefore, **support for these policies is a matter for Board policy determination.**

We will continue to keep you advised.

SAH:JJ:MR  
VE:DE:ma

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel